

News

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ANCHORAGE CONSUMER PRICES UP 1.3 PERCENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2000—2.4 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Anchorage metropolitan area advanced 1.3 percent in the second half of 2000 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said compared to the same period a year ago, prices increased 2.4 percent. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 151.9 (1982-84=100) during the second half of 2000. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$151.90 during the past six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Six of the eight expenditure categories rose during the past six months, and the advance in the overall index was dominated by increases in transportation and apparel costs. Lower recreation and education and communication costs partially offset the gain in the overall index.

The overall transportation index increased 2.4 percent in the second half of 2000, and measured 6.2 percent higher than last year's level. Private transportation costs were 3.5 percent higher over the latest six-month period and up 6.2 percent over-the-year. Gasoline prices jumped 10.2 percent during the past six months, providing strong upward pressure to the overall transportation index. Further, consumers are paying 27.8 percent more for gasoline than they did a year ago.

Apparel prices increased 8.3 percent in the last six months, the largest percentage gain of all eight major expenditure categories, offsetting a decline of 4.2 percent in the previous 6-month period. The net effect of these changes was an over-the-year increase of 3.8 percent.

Medical care costs increased 1.9 percent during the second half of 2000 and were 4.2 percent higher than a year ago.

Housing costs rose 0.4 percent during the second half of 2000. In the same period, the shelter component of housing advanced 0.4 percent, while fuels and utilities inched down 0.1 percent and household furnishings and operations decreased 1.1 percent. The overall housing category increased 1.2 percent between the second half of 1999 and the second half of 2000. Also, compared to a year ago,

shelter advanced 1.5 percent, fuels and utilities increased 0.1 percent and household furnishings and operations dropped 1.6 percent.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 1.2 percent in the past six months and 4.2 percent over the year.

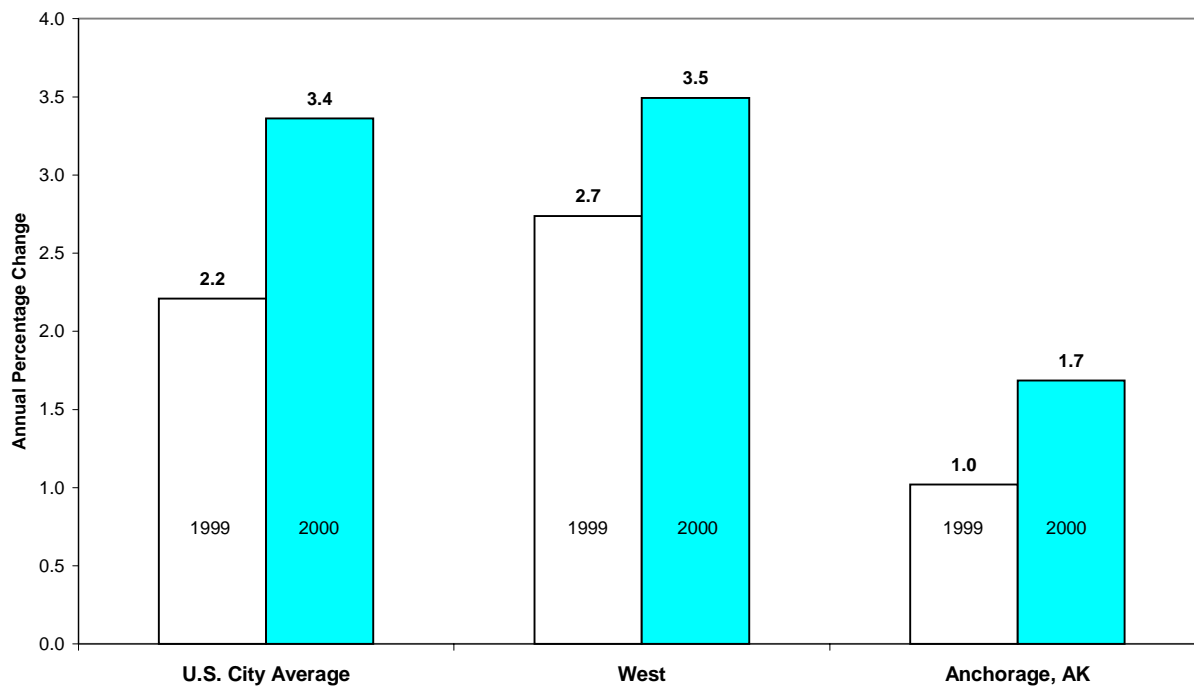
The overall cost of food and beverages rose 1.8 percent in the second half of 2000. Grocery prices, represented by the food at home index, advanced 2.5 percent in the same period. The cost of dining out increased 2.4 percent while prices paid for alcoholic beverages rose 0.7 percent. For the past 12 months, the food and beverages' index rose 2.8 percent.

Recreation costs declined 0.1 percent in the past six months, but increased 0.8 percent over the year.

The education and communication index declined 0.8 percent during the second half of 2000 and is down 2.5 percent from a year ago.

The annual average for the all items index for the greater Anchorage area rose 1.7 percent in 2000, following a 1.0 percent gain in 1999. For both 1999 and 2000, Anchorage's annual average growth trailed the nation as well as the West region. Nationally, the annual averages for 1999 and 2000 rose 2.2 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively. For the West, the annual average growth was 2.7 percent in 1999 and 3.5 percent in 2000.

Annual Average - All items CPI-U



Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Anchorage, AK (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent	change to
	2nd half 1999	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	2nd half 1999	2000 from-
Expenditure category					
All items	148.3	150.0	151.9	2.4	1.3
All items (1967=100)	395.8	400.2	405.5	-	-
Food and beverages	149.0	150.4	153.1	2.8	1.8
Food	149.2	150.9	153.7	3.0	1.9
Food at home	153.4	154.8	158.6	3.4	2.5
Food away from home	143.0	143.7	147.1	2.9	2.4
Alcoholic beverages	146.3	145.5	146.5	0.1	0.7
Housing	132.8	133.9	134.4	1.2	0.4
Shelter	135.6	137.1	137.6	1.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence	123.9	R125.7	126.7	2.3	0.8
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	135.4	137.4	138.6	2.4	0.9
Fuels and utilities	143.5	143.9	143.7	0.1	-0.1
Fuels	139.7	140.0	139.9	0.1	-0.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	155.7	155.7	155.3	-0.3	-0.3
Electricity	150.1	155.4	155.0	3.3	-0.3
Utility natural gas service	161.4	153.7	153.4	-5.0	-0.2
Household furnishings and operations	109.1	108.5	107.3	-1.6	-1.1
Apparel	124.7	119.5	129.4	3.8	8.3
Transportation	143.4	148.7	152.3	6.2	2.4
Private transportation	140.2	143.9	148.9	6.2	3.5
Motor fuel	107.9	125.2	137.9	27.8	10.1
Gasoline (all types)	107.8	125.1	137.8	27.8	10.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	103.6	120.8	133.3	28.7	10.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	104.1	119.7	132.5	27.3	10.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	114.4	131.7	143.8	25.7	9.2
Medical care	263.7	269.5	274.7	4.2	1.9
Recreation (4).....	104.7	105.6	105.5	0.8	-0.1
Education and communication (4).....	96.8	95.2	94.4	-2.5	-0.8
Other goods and services	205.3	211.5	214.0	4.2	1.2

See footnotes at the end of tables.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Anchorage, AK (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent	change to
	2nd half 1999	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	2nd half 1999	2000 from-
Commodity and service group					
All items	148.3	150.0	151.9	2.4	1.3
Commodities	139.7	140.5	143.7	2.9	2.3
Commodities less food and beverages	134.2	134.6	138.1	2.9	2.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	134.5	137.9	146.1	8.6	5.9
Durables	135.0	131.9	129.9	-3.8	-1.5
Services	155.6	157.9	159.0	2.2	0.7
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	143.5	145.0	146.8	2.3	1.2
All items less shelter	153.0	154.8	157.4	2.9	1.7
Commodities less food	135.0	135.4	138.8	2.8	2.5
Nondurables	142.1	144.5	149.9	5.5	3.7
Nondurables less food	135.8	139.0	146.6	8.0	5.5
Services less rent of shelter (1)	186.5	190.4	191.8	2.8	0.7
Services less medical care services	147.6	149.7	150.5	2.0	0.5
Energy	118.7	127.7	134.2	13.1	5.1
All items less energy	150.9	152.0	153.6	1.8	1.1
All items less food and energy	151.1	152.1	153.5	1.6	0.9

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

R Revised.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.